

Electrical Ordinances

**City of Chattanooga
Board of
Electrical Examiners**

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Chapter 14

ELECTRICITY¹

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ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Sec. 14-1. Liabilities not affected.

This article shall not be construed to relieve from or lessen the responsibility or liability of any party owning, operating, controlling or installing any electrical wiring, devices, appliances or equipment for damage to persons or property caused by any defect therein, nor shall the city be held as assuming any liability by reason of the examination authorized herein or the license and certificate issued as herein provided.

(Code 1986, § 14-1)

Sec. 14-2. Code adopted.

The National Electrical Code of 2005 (NFPA 70: National Electrical Code, International Electrical Code Series) is hereby adopted as the official electrical code of the City. Such Code is adopted by reference pursuant to the provisions of T.C.A. § 6-54-501 through § 6-54-506. All tables and examples included in the National Electrical Code of 2005 are adopted by the City of Chattanooga except as amended by Section 14-3. The provisions of such National Electrical Code shall be in full force and effect to the same extent as if such provisions were copied verbatim herein. One (1) original of the National Electrical Code is now on file and has been on file in the office of the Clerk of the City Council for more than fifteen (15) days, subject to public inspection.

(Code 1986, § 14-2; Ord. No. 9575, § 1, 7-9-91; Ord. No. 9968, § 1, 10-26-93; Ord. No. 10385, § 1, 3-12-96; Ord. No. 10839, § 1, 3-23-99; Ord. No. 11261, 04-02-02; Ord. No. 11742, § 1, 9-20-05)

Cross references—Building code adopted, § 10-1; National Fire Prevention Association's fire prevention code adopted, § 17-1; gas code adopted, § 19-1; plumbing code adopted, § 27-1.

State law reference—Adoption of technical codes, T.C.A. § 6-54-501 et seq.

¹ Cross references — Buildings, Ch. 10; energy, Ch. 15; fire prevention regulations, Ch. 17; gas regulations, Ch. 19; housing, Ch. 21; plumbing, Ch. 27.

State law reference — Authority to regulate electricians and electrical work, T.C.A. § 6-54-104.

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Sec. 14-3. Amendments to the Code adopted.

The following sections of the National Electrical Code, 2005 Edition, are hereby amended, as hereinafter approved:

- (a) Sections 210.52.C(2) and (3) are deleted in their entirety;
- (b) Section 210.52.C(5), all reference to the paragraph entitled "Exception" is deleted in its entirety.
(Ord. No. 10385, § 2, 3-12-96; Ord. No. 10839, § 2, 3-23-99; Ord. No. 11742, § 2, 9-20-05)

Sec. 14-4. General duties of inspector.

The chief electrical inspector is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to regulate and determine the placing of electric light and power wires in and on buildings in said city; so as to prevent fires, accidents or injuries to persons or property, and to cause all electrical appliances to be so placed, constructed and guarded so as not to cause fires or accidents or endanger life or property, and wherever, in the judgment of the chief electrical inspector, any electric wires or appliances shall be defective by reason of improper or insufficient insulation, or for any other cause, the electrical inspector shall at once cause the immediate removal of such defect.
(Code 1986, § 14-4)

Sec. 14-5. Inspector's right of entry.

The city chief electrical inspector or his assistant shall have the right to enter any building, manhole or subway, at any reasonable hour, (8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.), or any hour in case of emergency, in the discharge of his or their official duty, or for the purpose of making any tests of the electrical apparatus or appliance therein contained, and for that purpose he shall be given prompt access to all buildings, public and private, and to all manholes and subways, on application to the company or individual owning or in charge or control of the same.
(Code 1986, § 14-5)

Sec. 14-6. General duty to make inspections.

The chief electrical inspector shall, during the installation of an electric wiring system, make or cause inspections to be made to insure compliance with this article and the rules.
(Code 1986, § 14-6)

Sec. 14-7. Covering uninspected work.

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No work in connection with an electrical wiring system shall be covered or concealed until it has been inspected as prescribed in this article and permission to do so has been given by the electrical inspector.
(Code 1986, § 14-7)

Sec. 14-8. Duty to inspect, test wiring.

The chief electrical inspector shall, within a reasonable time after notice of completion of electrical wiring, for which a permit is required by this article, make or cause to be made an inspection of such work and such tests as may be necessary to determine that it conforms with this article and the rules.
(Code 1986, § 14-8)

Sec. 14-9. Reinspecting existing wiring.

The chief electrical inspector shall make or cause to be made a reinspection of an existing electric wiring installation whenever he deems it necessary in the interest of public safety.
(Code 1986, § 14-9)

Sec. 14-10. Condemning defective wiring.

If an electric wiring system upon reinspection is found to be defective and unsafe, the chief electrical inspector shall revoke all certificates in effect at that time relating to such system, and the use of such system shall be discontinued until it has been made to conform to this article and the rules and a new certificate has been issued by the chief electrical inspector.
(Code 1986, § 14-10)

Sec. 14-11. Temporary permission to use current.

(a) *By chief electrical inspector.* The chief electrical inspector may, in his discretion, give temporary permission, for a reasonable time, to supply and use current in part of an electrical installation before such installation has been fully completed and the certificate issued.

(b) *By chief of fire prevention bureau.* The chief of the fire prevention bureau or his deputy may, in his discretion, grant permission for supply and use of temporary current without approval of the electrical inspection department. Such temporary current shall be provided under the control of a licensed electrical contractor, Class 1, who shall at the first reasonable

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opportunity cause the temporary installation to be inspected by the electrical inspection department and obtain a permit therefor.
(Code 1986, § 14-11)

Sec. 14-12. Permits-Required.

No alteration or change shall be made in the wiring of any building or premises, nor shall any building or premises be wired for the placing of electric lights, motors, signs or devices without first securing from the chief electrical inspector, or competent person delegated, a permit therefor. A copy of such permit shall be displayed in a conspicuous place at the job site at all times from the time of issuance until the final inspection. No change shall be made in the electric plant after inspection without notifying the chief electrical inspector and securing a permit therefor.

(Code 1986, § 14-12)

Cross reference--Businesses, trades and occupations, Ch. 11.

Sec. 14-13. Same-Application required.

Permits shall be issued only upon written applications made therefor to the department of public works. All applications for permits shall be made by and in the name of the licensed electrical contractor undertaking to do the work proposed and also in the name of the firm or corporation with whom or by whom the contractor is associated or employed.

(Code 1986, § 14-13)

Sec. 14-14. Same-Issuance to certain persons prohibited.

No application shall be received from or permit issued to any person, unless such person is legally authorized by law to engage in the business of or to hold themselves out to the public as engaging in the business of installing, erecting or repairing, or contracting to install, erect or repair, electric wires or conductors to be used for the transmission of electric current for electric light, heat or power purposes, or to install, erect or repair electric motors, heating devices or other electrical apparatus or appliances, for the doing of which a permit is required by this article.

(Code 1986, § 14-14)

Sec. 14-15. Same-Fees.

Before any electrical contractor obtains a permit for installation or alterations, services, feeders, branch circuits or signs, he shall pay a non-refundable fee for such permit based upon

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the following schedule. For any electrical permit, the minimum non-refundable fee shall not be less than twenty dollars (\$20.00):

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| (1) | Fees for work on electrical services: | |
| | 600 volts or less | \$ 20.00 |
| | plus per 100 amps | 4.00 |
| | Over 600 volts, per KVA (\$100.00 min.) | .20 |
| | Fee for temporary service complete | 20.00 |
| (2) | Fees for work on separately derived systems, per 100 amps | \$ 4.00 |
| (3) | Fees for work on feeder and branch circuits (new or alterations to existing): | |
| | 0-30 amp | \$ 2.00 |
| | 31-100 amp | 4.00 |
| | Larger, per 100 amp | 8.00 |
| (4) | Fees for interior-wired signs: | |
| | 25 sq. ft. or less | \$ 20.00 |
| | Over 25 square feet | 20.00 plus \$.20 for each additional square foot over 25 square feet |
| | Neon transformers | 20.00 per transformer with maximum of 3 transformers |
| (5) | Fees for approval of non-listed or non-labeled signs and showcases | \$ 20.00 each |
| (6) | Fees for neon transformers: | |
| | Neon transformers | \$ 10.00 per transformer with a \$60.00 minimum charge |
| (7) | Re-inspection fee | \$ 25.00 |
- (Code 1986, § 14-15; Ord. No. 9525, § 1, 3-19-91; Ord. No. 10757, § 1, 9-1-98; Ord. No. 11175, § 25, 9-11-01; Ord. No. 11742, § 3, 9-20-05)

Sec. 14-16. Same-Commencing work without; double fee.

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Where any electrical work requiring a permit is commenced before a permit is obtained, the permit fees shall be doubled; provided, however, that, in no case shall the additional fee be less than twenty dollars (\$20.00) nor more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00); and, provided, further, that, in case of emergency, repair work may be done, and the necessary permits obtained the next working day; however, the chief electrical inspector may, upon request, permit work to be commenced prior to the issuance of a permit therefor without imposition of the penalty provided.

(Code 1986, § 14-16; Ord. No. 11175, § 26, 9-11-01)

Sec. 14-17. Notice when work ready for inspector; inspection, approval.

Upon completion of the wiring of any building, and of the wiring of signs, before installation, it shall be the duty of the company, firm or individual doing the same to notify the electrical inspector, who shall at once inspect the same, and if approved by him, shall issue a certificate of satisfactory inspection, which shall contain the date of such inspection. Such approval for sign is to be shown on the approved city sign label, but no such certificate or label shall be issued unless the electric light, power, sign, or heating installation and all apparatus, wires, etc., connected with it shall be in strict conformity with the rules and regulations set forth in this chapter; nor shall current be turned on such installations until such certificate or label is issued.

(Code 1986, § 14-17)

Sec. 14-18. Correction of defects, reinspections.

Any person who shall fail to correct any defect in his work within ten (10) days after having been duly notified of such defect by the electrical inspector, shall not receive any further permit until such defect have been corrected. Immediately after the correction of such defect the inspector shall be notified of such correction. One (1) inspection will be made after the notice of correction at no charge; if, however, the defect or violation has not been corrected in accordance with this article and/or code hereby adopted, there will be a charge of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the first additional reinspection and a fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each additional reinspection thereafter until the defect or violation is corrected.

(Code 1986, § 14-18; Ord. No. 11175, § 27, 9-11-01)

Sec. 14-19. Violations, penalty.

Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this article, or fail, neglect or refuse to comply with the rules or regulations therein and thereby promulgated or adopted, or shall fail, neglect or refuse to comply with any lawful and authorized order or request of the

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chief electrical inspector or other competent person designated, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and each and every day's violation shall constitute a separate offense.
(Code 1986, § 14-19)

Secs. 14-20 – 14-30. Reserved.

ARTICLE II. ELECTRICIANS²

DIVISION I. GENERALLY

Sec. 14-31. Purpose of regulations.

In the interests of the public health, safety and welfare, the following provisions establishing the board of electrical examiners for the licensing and regulation of those engaged in electrical work are adopted.
(Code 1986, § 14-31)

Sec. 14-32. Liabilities not affected.

This article shall not be construed to relieve from or lessen the responsibility or liability of any party owning, operating, controlling or installing any electrical wiring, devices, appliances or equipment for damage to persons or property caused by any defect therein, nor shall the city be held as assuming liability by reason of the examination authorized herein or the license and certificate issued as herein provided.
(Code 1986, § 14-32)

Sec. 14-33. Notices.

Notices shall be considered sufficient when either delivered personally to the person to whom such notice is directed or when mailed to the last known address of the applicant as shown in the records of the board.
(Code 1986, § 14-33)

Sec. 14-34. Licensee to supervise work under license; duties specified.

² Cross references—Gas fitters and installers, § 19-51 et seq.; plumbers, § 27-21 et seq.

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Class I, class II and class III licenses issued in accordance with the provisions of this article shall specify the name of the person who passed the examination, who shall be known as the holder of the license and as supervisor of all work done under the license. Supervision of work shall mean:

- (1) The license holder shall be available during normal working hours at the holder's place of business located in the general metropolitan area of the city.
- (2) The business in which the holder is associated shall have a local office in the general metropolitan area of the city and a local phone listed under the name of the firm with whom he is associated.
- (3) The board of electrical examiners and the chief electrical inspector shall be notified in writing of the name of the firm with whom the holder is associated.
- (4) Any holder who applied as and was licensed as a representative of a corporation, firm or association, and who ceases to be a representative of such corporation, firm or association for whatever reason, shall immediately notify the board in writing of such termination. The board shall immediately contact the corporation, firm or association by which the holder was employed and ascertain the current status of the bids, contracts, permits, etc., of such corporation, firm or association covering work being or to be performed in the city, and the board may, in its discretion, relieve any hardships and permit such work on a temporary basis as they deem advisable.
- (5) The license holder shall be a full-time employee of the corporation, firm, association, or individual which he represents, during the normal working hours of said business represented. The license holder shall not obtain permits for any other corporation, firm, association, or individual. Further, the license holder shall neither represent nor obtain permits for more than one (1) corporation, firm, association, or individual at any one time.

(Code 1986, § 14-34; Ord. No. 9277, § 1, 12-12-89)

Secs. 14-35 -- 14-45. Reserved.

DIVISION 2. BOARD OF EXAMINERS

Sec. 14-46. Established.

There is hereby created and established a board of electrical examiners of the city.
(Code 1986, § 14-46)

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Sec. 14-47. Composition; appointment.

The board of electrical examiners shall consist of seven (7) members to be appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the city council.
(Code 1986, § 14-47; Ord. No. 9654, § 2, 1-6-92)

Sec. 14-48. Terms of members.

Members of the board of electrical examiners shall hold office for a term of four (4) years and until their successors are elected.
(Code 1986, § 14-48)

Sec. 14-49. Qualifications of members.

The members of the board of electrical examiners shall consist of:

- (1) An electrical engineer holding a degree from a recognized college and licensed as an engineer by the state;
 - (2) An educator or teacher;
 - (3) A member of the electrical contracting industry;
 - (4) A journeyman electrician with at least ten (10) years' experience;
 - (5) An employee of the Chattanooga Electric Power Board, with at least ten (10) years' experience in the electrical field;
 - (6) A representative of the general public not connected with the electrical industry;
 - (7) A member appointed as provided in section 14-50.
- (Code 1986, § 14-49)

Sec. 14-50. Chairman.

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The seventh member appointed shall be designated by the mayor as chairman of the board, which appointment as chairman shall be subject to the approval of the city council. Such member shall serve as chairman for his full term on the board or until his successor is elected. (Code 1986, § 14-50; Ord. No. 9654, § 2, 1-6-92)

Sec. 14-51. Secretary.

The board shall select from its membership one (1) member to serve as secretary for at least one (1) year and until his successor is elected by the board. (Code 1986, § 14-51)

Sec. 14-52. Removal of members; compensation; quorum.

Any members of the board of electrical examiners may be removed for cause at any time by the mayor after ten (10) days' written notice. Such board shall serve without compensation. Four (4) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. (Code 1986, § 14-52; Ord. No. 9654, § 13, 1-6-92)

Sec. 14-53. Regular meetings.

The board of electrical examiners shall hold meetings on the third Thursday in April and October for the purpose of conducting examinations of applicants to determine their knowledge of the rules and regulations for the installation of electrical wiring, devices, appliances and equipment as set forth in the statutes of the state, this Code and other ordinances of the city and the National Electrical Code; to issue licenses and certificates therefor; to determine the general qualifications and fitness of each applicant for executing the class of work covered by the license applied for and for the transaction of other business. (Code 1986, § 14-53)

Sec. 14-54. Appeals from.

Any person aggrieved by any action or decision of the board of electrical examiners shall have the right of appeal to the board of adjustments and appeals by requesting an appeal in writing and by lodging such request with the codes coordinator of the city within ten (10) days after such action or decision. (Code 1986, § 14-54)

Sec. 14-55. Special meetings.

Special meetings of the board of electrical examiners may be called by the chairman with the approval of a majority of the board.

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(Code 1986, § 14-55)

Sec. 14-56. Records to be open to inspection.

Records of the meetings of the board of electrical examiners, including the names of all licensees, shall be open for inspection by the public at all reasonable times.
(Code 1986, § 14-56)

Sec. 14-57. Regulations authorized; printing.

The board of electrical examiners may promulgate rules and regulations not inconsistent with this article, and in such event shall have such rules and regulations printed for distribution.
(Code 1986, § 14-57)

Secs. 14-58 -- 14-74. Reserved.

DIVISION 3. EXAMINATIONS, LICENSES AND CERTIFICATES³

Sec. 14-75. Application for examination required; contents; qualifications.

(a) *Application for examination.* All persons now or hereafter desiring to engage in electrical wiring and/or contracting in the city, either as class I, electrical contractor, a class II, residential electrical contractor, a class III, electrical sign contractor, a residential electrician, a plant electrician, a plant master electrician, a journeyman electrician, or a sign electrician shall apply in writing to the secretary of the board for an application to take the respective examination, as specified in this article. Such application must be completed fully and returned to the secretary of the board with a check or money order for the proper examination fee no later than thirty (30) days prior to the examination date. Upon approval of the application by the board, the applicant shall appear before such board for examination for the particular license applied for. The examinations for class I electrical contractors, class II residential electrical contractors, class III electrical sign contractors, residential electricians, plant electricians, plant master electricians, journeyman electricians, and sign electricians shall be different, reasonable and especially thorough, so as to obtain from the applicant an understanding of the extent of his knowledge of the subjects upon which he is questioned.

³ Cross references—Businesses, trades and occupations generally, Ch. 11; examination and certification of gas fitters and installers, § 19-86 et seq.

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(b) *Qualifications of residential electricians, plant electricians, and journeyman electricians.* Any person shall be eligible for examination as a residential electrician, plant electrician, journeyman electrician or sign electrician who:

- (1) Has three (3) or more years' practicable experience as a registered apprentice electrician in the metropolitan area of the city. (One (1) year shall be equivalent to minimum of two thousand (2,000) hours actual experience in electrical installations); or
- (2) Has previously held an unrevoked journeyman electrician license in the city or any other governmental agency licensing electricians; or
- (3) Has satisfactorily completed a recognized apprentice training program; or
- (4) Has had such experience in electrical wiring as shall be acceptable to the board.

(c) *Qualifications of class I electrical contractors and plant master electricians.* Any person shall be eligible for the examination as a class I electrical contractor or plant master electrician who:

- (1) Has three (3) or more years' practicable experience as a journeyman electrician or plant electrician in a metropolitan area of the city; or
- (2) Has had three (3) or more years' experience as a class II residential electrical contractor in a metropolitan area of the city; or
- (3) Has held an unrevoked class I electrical contractor's license in the city; or
- (4) Has a professional license to practice engineering in the state; or
- (5) Has had such education and experience in electrical wiring and design in commercial, industrial or residential installations and shall be acceptable by the board.

(d) *Qualifications for class II residential electrical contractors.* Any person shall be eligible for the examination as a class II residential electrical contractor who:

- (1) Has had three (3) or more years' experience as a licensed journeyman electrician or residential electrician in the metropolitan area of the city; or

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- (2) Has held an unrevoked class II residential electrical contractor's license in the city; or
 - (3) Has a degree from an accredited school of electrical engineering or technology; or
 - (4) Has such experience in residential electrical wiring as shall be acceptable to the board.
- (e) *Qualifications for a class III electrical sign contractor.* Any person shall be eligible for the examination as a class III electrical sign contractor who:
- (1) Is an owner, manager or supervisor of an electrical sign company; and
 - (2) Knows and will conform to the rules and regulations of this article and other ordinances regarding installing and erecting of electrical signs.
- (f) *Proof of qualifications.* The board shall require written proof of any of the above qualifications, and it shall be the responsibility of the applicant to provide such definite proof with his application.
(Code 1986, § 14-75; Ord. No. 10757, § 2, 9-1-98)

Sec. 14-76. Examinations to be written; records required.

Examinations for class I, class II, class III, residential electricians, plant electricians, plant master electricians, and journeyman's license given by the board shall be written and a complete record of every examination shall be kept on file by the board for a period of three (3) years after the date of the examination.
(Code 1986, § 14-76)

Sec. 14-77. Passing examination; issuance of license.

Any applicant making a grade of seventy (70) percent or more on each section of the written examination shall be considered qualified for, and the board shall issue to the applicant, the particular license which was applied for upon payment of the required fees and the furnishing of any required information. All such licenses shall be signed by the chairman and the secretary of the board.
(Code 1986, § 14-77)

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250/200

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Sec. 14-78. Examination fee established.

An examination fee in the following amounts shall accompany the application for examination:

Journeyman electrician.....	\$ 60.00
Class I electrical contractor.....	85.00
Class II residential electrical contractor.....	85.00
Class III electrical sign contractor.....	85.00
Residential electrician.....	60.00
Plant electrician.....	60.00
Plant master electrician.....	85.00
Sign Journeyman electrician.....	60.00

(Ord. No. 11444, §1, 08-12-03)

Permits 120,000 -
Annual fee 61,000 -
State fees - 0 -
Exam 25,000 -
206,000

Sec. 14-79. License fee established.

Fees for licenses granted or renewed under this article shall be for each year or part thereof as follows:

Journeyman electrician	\$ 10.00
Journeyman sign electrician	10.00
Class 1 electrical contractor	200.00
Class 2 residential electrical contractor	100.00
Class 3 electrical sign contractor	50.00
Residential electrician	10.00
Plant electrician	10.00
Plant master electrician	100.00
Temporary journeyman electrician	10.00
Special license	100.00

Plant electrical license:

(a) 1-5 electrical maintenance employees	\$ 200.00
(b) 6-14 electrical maintenance employees	400.00
(c) 15 or more electrical maintenance employees	600.00

(Code 1986, § 14-79; Ord. No. 9525, § 3, 3-19-91)

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Sec. 14-80. Disposition of fees.

Fees required by this article shall be collected by the secretary of the board of electrical examiners and paid over to the city treasurer. All expenses incurred by such board shall be paid by the city treasurer from the fees collected. Any balance left in such fund shall be held by the city treasurer subject to the order of the mayor, and in no event shall the board incur a greater expense than the amount collected in fees.

(Code 1986, § 14-80; Ord. No. 9654, § 13, 1-6-92)

Sec. 14-81. Licenses and certificates required.

No person shall engage in or hold himself out as being in the business of installing, maintaining, altering or repairing any electrical wiring, devices, signs, appliances or equipment in the city unless such person has received an electrical license of the appropriate class and a certificate therefor; or in the case of a firm or corporation, unless it is owned or operated by, or has in its regular employment, a person who has received an electrical license of the appropriate class and a certificate therefor.

(Code 1986, § 14-81)

Sec. 14-82. Classes of license; limitations.

(a) Nine (9) classes of licenses shall be issued by the board of electrical examiners.

(b) A journeyman electrician license shall entitle the holder thereof to perform the installation, alteration and repair of any electrical wiring, devices, appliances or equipment under the supervision of a holder of a class I, class II, or a class III license. The holder of a journeyman electrician's license may supervise other licensed journeymen or registered apprentice electricians but may not be issued permits for electrical work.

(c) A class I electrical contractor's license shall entitle the holder thereof to engage in the business of and to secure permits for the installation, alteration and repair of any electrical wiring, devices, appliances or equipment.

(d) A class II residential electrical contractor's license shall entitle the holder thereof to engage in the business of and to secure permits for the installation, alteration and repair of any electrical wiring, devices, appliances, or equipment in one- and two-family residential dwellings only.

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(e) A class III electrical sign contractor's license shall entitle the holder thereof to employ and supervise licensed journeyman electricians and to take out permits to install such electrical wiring and accessories within the sign as may be necessary for the illumination and mechanization of such sign under the supervision of the chief electrical inspector who shall issue city labels of approval before signs are installed. It also permits the licensed sign contractor to secure permits for installing electric signs and making connections to adequate existing electrical circuit only, provided the existing circuit is not more than four (4) feet from the sign to be installed. A class III electrical sign contractor who also is the holder of valid class II residential electrical contractor's license shall be permitted to build and wire the service entrance, meter center and service equipment for an individual sign which will be served directly from the electric utility lines. A class III electrical contractor's license shall further entitle the holder thereof to install neon, gas filled tube, decorative lighting.

(f) The board of electrical examiners may also issue special restricted licenses to such persons as it determined qualified.

(g) The holder of either of the licenses specified in paragraphs (c), (d), (e), or (f) above, shall supervise licensed journeyman electricians and registered apprentice electricians.

(h) Upon application, the board of electrical examiners shall issue a plant electrical license to a manufacturing firm or a non-profit organization as the holder of the license to undertake the work of maintaining, repairing, replacing, relocating, altering, extending or installing electrical systems within buildings occupied by the license holder as owner or lessee subject to the following limitations and conditions:

- (1) A holder of a plant license, through its qualified representative, is held responsible for all work done under its license and is subject to the penalties provided for in the applicable codes and statutes.
- (2) The person named on the license application as the holder's designee shall be responsible for the electrical work being done. The work is to be done by full-time employees of the firm.
- (3) The designee shall be a full-time employee of the license holder and hold a valid city plant electrician's license or a plant master electrician's license or, for a period not to exceed six (6) months, a temporary journeyman's license issued in accordance with other sections in this article. In the absence of a qualified full-time employee, an outside class I electrical contractor may be named as a

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designee, but all work must be done by employees of the contractor who are properly licensed in accordance with other sections of this article.

- (4) If the designee should terminate his employment with the license holder, such firm shall immediately provide the name of a replacement, who meets the qualifications in paragraph (2) above, to the board of electrical examiners. If no licensed person is available, an individual having a minimum of five (5) years' experience as an electrician or who is a graduate electrical engineer or equivalent may serve temporarily in this position until he has the opportunity to take the examination at its next offering.
- (5) A plant electrical license shall entitle its holder to maintain, repair, replace, relocate and alter existing electrical circuits and to install new circuits within existing buildings with the exception that a license holder with a plant electrician as the designee will be limited to the installation of new circuits of sixty (60) amps or less capacity within existing buildings. If the designee holds a plant master electrician's license, employees of the manufacturing firm also may make electrical installations in excess of sixty (60) amps capacity on existing buildings and on new buildings, additions and new structures.
- (6) Electrical permits are not required for work within existing buildings. Work performed, other than that exempted in section 14-83, under the plant license is subject to inspections made annually, at a time arranged with the designee, covering that work performed during the previous year. Permits shall be obtained for electrical work in or on new buildings, additions and structures and inspections made in accordance with other sections in this chapter. It will be the responsibility of the designee to call for inspections at the rough-in and final stages on work for which permits are obtained. Inspections may be made at other times for cause.
- (7) Application for a plant electrical license shall be made by the owner, officer of a corporation, or other responsible person having authority to attest to the firm's acceptance of responsibility for all work done under its license, and acknowledge it is subject to the penalties and liabilities provided in this and other applicable codes. The license is subject to suspension or revocation at any time in accordance with the provisions in this article.
- (8) All work under this section will be done in accordance with the National Electrical Code as adopted by this chapter.

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(i) A residential electrician's license shall entitle the holder thereof to perform the installation, alteration and repair of any electrical wiring, devices, appliances or equipment in any one- and two-family dwellings and multi-family dwellings, not exceeding three (3) floors above grade only under the supervision of a holder of a class I or class II electrical contractor's license. The holder of a residential electrician's license may supervise other residential electricians or registered apprentice electricians but may not be issued permits for electrical work.

(j) A plant electrician's license shall entitle the holder thereof to be named as a designee on a plant electrical license and to perform and supervise full-time employees of the firm holding the plant electrical license in performing electrical work with an existing building owned or used by that firm subject to the conditions in paragraph (h) of this section. The work done is to be limited to the maintenance, repair, replacement, relocation and altering existing electrical circuits and to the installation of new circuits of sixty (60) amps or less capacity in or on existing buildings.

(k) A plant master electrician's license shall entitle the holder thereof to be named as a designee in a plant electrical license and to supervise full-time employees of the firm holding the plant electrician license in the maintenance, repair, replacement, relocation and altering existing electrical circuits in or on existing buildings owned or used by that firm subject to the conditions in paragraph (h) above.

(l) A sign journeyman electrician license shall entitle the holder thereof to install, repair, alter, add to or change any electrical wires, apparatus, raceways, conduit or any part thereof on electrical signs under the direct supervision of a Class III electrical sign contractor; provided, however, that no work or connections by a sign journeyman electrician shall be performed on existing electrical circuits more than four (4) feet from the sign to be installed or altered.

(Code 1986, § 14-82; Ord. No. 9525, §§ 4-5, 3-19-91; Ord. No. 9694, § 1, 4-7-92; Ord. No. 10757, § 3, 9-1-98)

Sec. 14-83. Appropriate license and certificate prerequisite to doing work; exceptions.

(a) Where any electrical work covered by the National Electrical Code is being done, it shall be done by a licensed journeyman electrician or a licensed residential electrician employed by and supervised by the holder of a class I electrical contractor's license, class II residential license, class III electrical sign contractor's license or special license, and no person shall, in any manner, undertake to execute any work of installing, maintaining, altering or repairing any electrical wiring, devices, signs, appliances, or equipment unless such person has

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received either a class I electrical contractor's license and a certificate therefor, a class II residential electrical contractor's license and a certificate therefor, or a class III electrical sign contractor's license and certificate therefor, except for work in existing plants by firms holding a plant electrical license in accordance with provisions and limitations set out in section 14-82(h) of this article; provided that, no license shall be required in order to execute any of the following classes of work:

- (1) Minor repair work such as replacement of fuses or sockets, replacement of lamps, and the connection of portable devices to suitable receptacles which have been permanently installed.
- (2) The installation, alteration or repair of wiring, devices, appliances, or equipment for the operation of signals or the transmission of intelligence, where such wiring, devices, signs, appliances or equipment operate at a potential not exceeding fifty (50) volts between conductors and do not include generating or transforming equipment capable of supplying more than fifty (50) watts of energy.
- (3) Any work involved in the manufacture, test or repair of electrical materials, devices, appliances or apparatus.
- (4) The assembly, erection and connection of electrical apparatus and equipment by the manufacturer of such apparatus and equipment, but not including any electric wiring other than that involved in making electrical connections on the apparatus or equipment itself or between two (2) or more parts of such apparatus or equipment.
- (5) The maintenance and repair of electrical equipment by manufacturing concerns through regular employees.

Provided, however, that such exception shall not apply to the manufacture, test, repair, assembly, erection and/or connection of electrical signs.

(b) It shall be unlawful for a class I, II, III or special license holder to allow any person who is not licensed as a journeyman electrician, a residential electrician, an apprentice electrician or helper working under the supervision of a class I, II, or III contractor or special license holder to do any electrical work, except for work in existing plants by full-time employees of firms holding a plant electrical license in accordance with the provisions and limitations set out in section 14-82(h) of this article.

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(c) It is understood that any work listed in the Chattanooga City Code to be done by a plant or residential electrician can be performed by journeyman electricians and any responsibilities of a plant master electrician or a class II or class III electrical contractor can be performed by a class I electrical contractor.

(Code 1986, § 14-83; Ord. No. 10087, § 1, 8-23-94)

Sec. 14-84. Expiration, renewal of license.

Class I, class II, class III, plant electrical and plant master electricians license issued under this article shall expire on the thirty-first day of December, following the date of its issuance. Each journeyman, residential and plant electrician's license shall expire on the thirtieth day of June, following the date of issuance. All licenses shall be renewable upon application of the holder within thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date of the license, upon payment of the annual fee set out in this article in compliance with the statements required by the board and in this article. Any licensee who fails to make application and pay the required fee within such period of thirty (30) days, may be required to take another examination by the board of examiners unless such applicant shows good and sufficient cause for his failure to make such timely application for the renewal; provided that, if any licensee enters active service in the armed forces of the United States, he shall be granted a renewal license upon his application after discharge from such service, if such application is presented to the board within six (6) months following the date of his discharge.

(Code 1986, § 14-84)

Sec. 14-85. Review of renewal applications: statement required.

It shall be the duty of the board of electrical examiners to review all applications for the renewal of any license, and the board shall require that each applicant for renewal shall file a statement signed by the applicant that he has not misused his license and that he has abided by this Code and the ordinances of the city pertaining to electrical contractors and the installing of any electrical wiring, devices, appliances or equipment. If an applicant for renewal cannot honestly file such a statement, a full explanation of the reasons must accompany the renewal application in lieu of all or part of the required statement.

(Code 1986, § 14-85)

Sec. 14-86. License to be displayed; marking of vehicles.

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(a) Every holder of a class I, class II, or class III license shall keep his certificate and license displayed in a conspicuous place in his principal place of business, and every class I, II or III license holder shall identify any vehicles used in the installation of electrical wiring and devices with his certificate number and his name or the name of the company with which he is associated in letters and numerals not less than three (3) inches high on each side of such vehicles.

(b) Every holder of any license issued under this article will also be issued a license card annually with his license renewal which he shall carry with him at all times while engaged in any electrical work and shall show when requested to do so by any electrical inspector or other duly authorized person having responsibility for enforcing these articles.
(Code 1986, § 14-86)

Sec. 14-87. Licenses, certificates not transferable.

No license and certificate issued in accordance with the provisions of this article shall be assignable or transferable.
(Code 1986, § 14-87)

Sec. 14-88. Suspension, revocation of certificates, denial of renewal.

(a) The board of electrical examiners shall revoke or suspend a certificate issued to any electrician or electrical contractor upon positive proof that such person:

- (1) Knowingly violated the provisions of this chapter or the rules and regulations of the board.
- (2) Practiced fraud or deception in making application for or obtaining such certificate or registration.
- (3) Is incompetent to perform a service to the public as certified.
- (4) Permitted his certificate of registration to be used, directly or indirectly, by another to obtain or perform electrical work or services.
- (5) Is guilty of such other unprofessional or dishonorable conduct of such nature as to deceive or defraud the public.
- (6) Has done electrical work in excess of that permitted by the license held.

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- (7) Failed to comply with this chapter of this Code, the requirements of the electrical code, or repeatedly failed to obtain permits required before commencing work.
- (8) Has obtained a permit directly or indirectly for another unless the license holder shall be the supervisor of all work covered by the permit.
- (9) Has received from another any compensation wherein the sole consideration thereof is the obtaining of a permit.

(b) The board may disapprove any renewal of a certificate when the applicant has misused his license, has made any intentional misstatement on such application, or has been guilty of any act or conduct which would constitute grounds for revocation or suspension of a certificate as herein provided; provided, however, the board shall not disapprove any renewal until after the application has been accorded an opportunity to be heard after five (5) days' notice by registered mail or personal service of such a notice.

(c) No action of the board to suspend or revoke a certificate of competency or registration shall become final until the alleged offender has been given an opportunity to appear before the board to show cause as to why such action should not be taken.

(d) Notice, in writing, of the proposed action of the board to revoke or suspend a certificate shall be given to the holder of such certificate, stating the specific charges upon which such action is based. The notice shall stipulate that a hearing will be scheduled at a time and place set by the board for the party to show cause why such action should not be made final. Such hearing shall not be held less than five (5) days following notice to the party. Failure to appear before the board to answer the specific charges set forth in the notice shall be deemed just cause for final revocation or suspension of a certificate.

(Code 1986, § 14-88)

Sec. 14-89. Certain persons exempted from written examination.

- (a) *Existing business.*
 - (1) All persons holding class I electrical contractor's license and class III electrical sign contractor's license at the time of adoption of this article [April 18, 1972] will be exempt from taking the examination required by this article. All other persons desiring such licenses shall be required to conform to the requirements of this article.

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- (2) Any person who shall be otherwise qualified as a journeyman electrician as hereinbefore set out in section 14-75(b), whose principal occupation has been installing, maintaining, altering and repairing any electrical wiring, devices, appliances or equipment for three (3) or more years next preceding the effective date of this subsection [January 23, 1973] or is the holder of the former class II electrical maintenance license shall be exempted from taking the written examination for journeyman electrician's license as required by this article. The board of electrical examiners is hereby authorized to issue a journeyman electrician's license to such persons upon written application for such license, accompanied by sufficient proof of the aforesaid qualifications and the payment of the license fee set out in this article, provided that such application for such license and payment therefor was made within three (3) months after the effective date of this subsection [January 23, 1973].
- (b) *Newly annexed territory.*
 - (1) Electrical contractors who have had an established place of business located in newly annexed territory and whose principal business has been in such territory and whose principal business has been electrical contracting and who have maintained such place of business for three (3) or more years next preceding the date of the annexation of such territory shall be exempted from taking the written examination required by this article. The board of electrical examiners is hereby authorized in its discretion to issue class I, II, III, or special electrical licenses to such persons as it deems qualified upon written application for such license, the submission of adequate written proof of the above requirements and the payment of fees set out in this article, provided that such application and payment is made within six (6) months after the date of annexation of such territory.
 - (2) Journeyman electricians who are qualified under section 14-75(b) of this article and whose legal place of residence has been in the newly annexed area for the three (3) years next preceding the annexation of such territory or who are currently employed by a class I, II or III contractor whose principal place of business is in the newly annexed area and whose principal occupation is journeyman electrician shall be exempted from taking the examinations required by this article. The board of electrical examiners is hereby authorized to issue journeyman electrician's licenses to such persons upon written application for said license, the submission of adequate written proof of the above requirements and the payment of fees set out in this article, provided that such application and

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payment is made within six (6) months after the date of annexation of said territory.

(Code 1986, § 14-89)

Sec. 14-90. Temporary certificate.

Anything here and above to the contrary notwithstanding, however, it shall be lawful for the board of electrical examiners through the office of the chief electrical inspector of the city, to issue a temporary journeyman, sign journeyman, or residential electrician's license to any applicant who presents evidence of qualification as a journeyman, sign journeyman or residential electrician and pays the prescribed fee. The chief electrical inspector shall determine the qualification of the applicant and may at his discretion restrict the limits of the use of the temporary license. The temporary license shall be valid for one (1) year from the date of issue and may be renewed for not more than one (1) additional year, at the discretion of the chief electrical inspector. The intent of this limit of renewal is to restrict one (1) individual to no more than two (2) years of operation under a temporary license. The board of electrical examiners may revoke for just cause the said temporary license permit at any time.

(Code 1986, § 14-90; Ord. No. 9525, § 6, 3-19-91)

Sec. 14-91. Apprentice registration.

Any person who shall apply for registration as an apprentice electrician upon form provided for that purpose by the city at the office of the chief electrical inspector shall be registered as such by the board of electrical examiners without examination and without charge, and a certificate of registration as an apprentice electrician shall be issued to such applicant, without charge, and such certificate of registration shall be permanent and not renewed annually. Apprentices shall only do electrical work under the supervision of a licensed journeyman electrician.

(Code 1986, § 14-91)

Current List of 90.4 Rulings

3/30/2001	110-26(b)	Does not apply to water heater and closet A.C. disconnects	old
3/30/2001	210-52-(a)	If 6'6" headroom, and area capable of being heated or cooled then area must wire like any other room	old
3/30/2001	210-70(c)	Attic lighting only required where equipment or room to stand up.	old
3/30/2001	215-8 230-56 384-3(e)	Orange is for "High Leg" only	old
3/30/2001	230-2(b) 2	300 foot as crow flies between service points	old
3/30/2001	230-70	If one disconnect outside then ALL disconnects outside	old
3/30/2001	230-70(a)	3 foot maximum distance on residential	old
3/30/2001	300-4(d) ex1	Does not apply to E.M.T.	old
3/30/2001	300-5	Minimum cover on parking decks 2"	old
3/30/2001	300-11(a)	Yellow tape to be used for I.D.	39
3/30/2001	336-6(c)	Bore or running boards if accessible by door and Used for storage	39
3/30/2001	338-2, 338-3	S.E. cable on masonry or metal surface shall be Encased in conduit. T.C.A.0780-2-1-10	old
3/30/2001	370-20	Cut in boxes on new work mounted in 16" of wood at least 1/2" thick Not beaverboard, styrofoam etc.	old
3/30/2001	410-101(d)	Track lighting must be supported within 2' from ends	39
3/30/2001	511-3(a)	A letter showing air changes and the interlocking of lights and fans is required to declassify by air changes. This must be by Engineer with his stamp and signature.	old
3/30/2001	110-9, 110-10	An available fault current sheet is required on all services 400 amps and greater.	old
3/30/2001	250.104(B)	Hot, Cold, and Gas Bonding to be done at water-heater	old
6/1/2002	210.52 (e)	Receptacle on front and back must be reachable from grade level.	39
9/4/2003	210.52 (A)	Any walls studded in an unfinished basement must be wired by 210.52(A)	39
6/30/2004	250.52(A)(5)	A flower bed may be used for burial of ground rods.	40
7/6/2004	250.104	Bonding shall be accomplished from the main to the nearest water heater, unless in a visible location with 6'6" headroom	40
7/27/2004	210.8(B)(3)	Where a motor load causes nuisance tripping of a GFCI in a commercial kitchen, a non GFCI protected single receptacle shall be permitted if identified for use with a specific piece of equipment with a permanent plaque.	40
7/27/2004	210.8(B)(3)	Where a motor load causes nuisance tripping of a GFCI in a commercial kitchen, a non GFCI protected single receptacle shall be permitted if behind large dedicated space equipment.	40
10/5/2004	110.26(E) except.	5'9" minimum head room in Existing Dwellings with a panel board that does not exceed 200 amps	40

Meter Centers & Services					
Description of work	Permit?	Inspection?	Outside Disconnect?	4 wire Cable?	Notes
Repair Existing meter socket (no new wiring installed)	Yes	Yes	No	No	#4 ground wire and 2 ground rods required
Replace Existing meter socket (no new wiring installed)	Yes	Yes	No	No	#4 ground wire and 2 ground rods required
Replace or alter riser cable/raceway and meter socket (load side wiring not replaced)	Yes	Yes	3 foot rule	No	#4 ground wire and 2 ground rods required Permit as Service ____ amps
Repair/Reattach Riser (no new wiring installed)	Yes	Yes	No	No	#4 ground wire and 2 ground rods required
Change overhead to underground service (Load side wiring not replaced)	Yes	Yes	3 foot rule	No	#4 ground wire and 2 ground rods required Permit as Service ____ amps
Replace Interior service panel only	Yes	Yes	No	No	
Replace interior service panel (no new wiring or circuits)	Yes	Yes	No	No	Permit as Service ____ Amps
Install or replace service cable to panel	Yes	Yes	3 foot rule	Yes	
Install "split" panel outside with breaker on service entrance	Yes	Yes	Included	No	#4 ground wire and 2 ground rods required Permit as Service ____ amps
Repair/ Replace service with new addition or renovation of building	Yes	Yes	3 foot rule	Yes	A.F.C.I. required for bedroom circuits that are new or altered.
Notes	On overhead services the drip loop must be 10' above grade Service heads and goosenecks must be above the point of attachment On underground services, the conduit to the meter socket must be secured, 18" in ground, and the conductors terminated before final inspection. E.P.B. requirements include #4 ground wire to the meter socket, 2 1/2' mast (when used), and mast 3' above roof				

Last revision May 6th, 2009

Area Assignments For Electrical Inspection Department

Name: Zip: Area:

David Martin: 37415, Red Bank Area
643-5846 37405, North Chattanooga Area
 37343, Northgate, North Hixson Area
 37351, Lupton City Area
 37416, Highway 58 and Bonny Oaks Area

Jim Crocker: 37421, East Brainerd Area
643-5845 37463, Ooltewah Annexed Area
 37422, Shallowford Post Office Area

Amos Lowrance: 37411, Brainerd Area
643-5844 37406, East Chattanooga Area
 37404, Highland Park, Ridgedale, Glenwood Area

Buford Ashley: 37403, Erlanger, UTC Area
643-5835 37409, St. Elmo Area
 37410, Alton Park Area
 37402, Downtown Area
 37408, South Broad, and South Market Street Area
 37419, Tiftonia, Lookout Valley Area
 37407, East Lake Area

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